

FIGHTING TALK

ORGAN OF THE SPRINGBOK LEGION

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Our Word

ON OSTRICHES

THE ostrich is prized for its feathers. In relation to the vital realities of national and international affairs 'feathers' is about all the B.E.S.L. and the M.O.T.H. organisations are good for, judging from press reports of their recent national congresses.

At the congress of the hot-"breath and hoary" boys, the general with the unpronounceable name oozed ladlesful of emollients on the wounded feelings of the national chairman and his coterie, who complained that they had suffered all sorts of indignities because the B.E.S.L. had steadfastly and bravely refused to 'take part in politics', even when that refusal meant surrendering their own Cape Coloured members to the loss of their most valuable political right—the vote.

The general soothed all injuries to intellectual pride by saying: "You have done right: you have done well: I, a General, say this. Carry on, you valiant ones!"

And, we assume, the B.E.S.L. will carry on gallantly, even if the English language is deemed second-grade and the Jews lose the vote and the republic is declared and the dictator assumes power and the trade unions are 'nationalised' and the tramp of the jackboot is heard in the streets.

Ostriches were not mobilised in World War II. Now, we do not believe that the B.E.S.L. and the M.O.T.H. members are

literally ostriches. Yet, according to congress debates, the attitude of delegates to another world war was as unthinking and inhuman as one might expect the attitude of an ostrich to be.

The M.O.T.H. delegates have started to worry about demobilisation benefits for the 'next war' and the B.E.S.L. are anxious about the state of our defences. In Canada, in France, in Britain, in the United States and in South Africa there are ex-servicemen who are struggling to ENSURE PEACE, who are striving to combat war-propaganda, to give coherence to the people's 'will-to-peace.'

We accuse all ex-servicemen and all ex-service organisations who hold a negative attitude to peace of positively assisting the on-set of war. In so doing — let their consciences take note —

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they are throwing the men, women and children of the world, the culture of the world, the total heritage that our fathers have left us, into the devouring flames from which no man, no system, no creed can escape.



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THE OPPOSITION'S TACTICS IN THE CRISIS

A Criticism

THE actions of the United Party since the constitutional crisis began have been a mixture of boldness and timidity. One gets the impression every now and then that the United Party realises that it must win this fight or lose everything; but then the familiar timidity which is almost a trade-mark of the United Party surges up and stifles all action.

No one suggests that the United Party must act recklessly or irresponsibly, but if the Nationalists are to be defeated their every blow must be matched with even more vigorous blows.

A STEP BACKWARDS.

The United Party has already taken a big step backwards. It has rejected any assistance from the Non-Europeans. According to Mr. A. E. P. Robinson, the United Party member for Langlaagte, this is a "White man's fight". This utterance shows exactly how the United Party intends waging this struggle. The Non-European groups, for whom this is a matter of fundamental importance, for whom it is a matter of life and death, must sit quietly in the grandstand while the White men settle the quarrel.

It is this attitude which has often paralysed the United Party's efforts from the start; and it is this attitude which now threatens to cripple the strength of the entire anti-Nationalist front.

There is nothing involved about the crisis. It is merely the climax of Nationalist rule. Either the Nationalists now go on to establish a dictatorship, or else they are defeated. This is the most important struggle that has yet been waged in the Union since the Nationalists came to power. It may mean the death of our present system of govern-

ment; or, if the democratic forces are sufficiently determined, it could lead South Africa to the road of democracy.

DICTATORSHIP.

It does not matter whether the "High Court of Parliament" Bill which the Government have introduced is legally valid or not. If it is legally unsound, then of course the Nationalists will be precipitated into another crisis and they will be forced to resort to action even more drastic than they at present contemplate.

But even if the Bill is legally "fool-proof" — to adopt the current phrase — then it still means that a dictatorship is being set up. There is not the slightest doubt that the Nationalists intend altering our present system of Government radically. They may do it legally or illegally — that is the only difference.

The change that is brought about is this: Where the validity of an act of Parliament is concerned, the highest court in the country will be not the Appeal Court, but the Nationalist majority in Parliament.

The Nationalists have thrown aside all pretences in this fight and are using every weapon in their armoury. Anti-Semitism is only one of these weapons — a vicious anti-Jewish campaign has been launched by the Nationalists. The United Party must meet this challenge.

It has made many mistakes since the crisis began, but it still retains the initiative. Mr. Strauss disappointed many of his followers with his timid, colourless behaviour in Parliament when the whole country was waiting for him to set a lead; and even now, when it is clear that the ordinary citizen is roused and is prepared to fight for his rights, the United Party leaders are still torn between the impulse to pull no punches and the fear that the pace may become too hot.

SOME GOOD SPEECHES.

Nevertheless, the United Party has never been so aroused since the Nationalist rule began. There have been some good fighting speeches in Parliament, and for the first time the Nationalist tactics of intimidation have met with little success. Usually the Nationalists manage to intimidate the United Party into "toning down" its attack, but not this time. This is a tremendous advance, and it has caused surprise and dismay in the Government benches.

The Government attack has been turned full blast on the Torch Commando. This Government, whose leaders wanted a German victory and who did not protest against wartime sabotage, are now accusing the thousands of ex-servicemen who are members of the Torch Commando of plotting the forceful overthrow of the Government. Dr. Malan and Mr. Swart have hinted darkly at alleged secret plans of the Torch Commando.

Obviously this campaign against the ex-servicemen in the Torch Commando is to continue, and an attempt is going to be made to persuade United Party supporters to dissociate themselves from the Torch Commando.

These are the tactics which the united front of the United Party, Labour Party and Torch Commando will have to face. There is every reason to hope for success for the democratic forces. The meeting in the Cape Town City Hall which Mr. Strauss addressed — and which saw Mr. Strauss at his best — showed that the people of South Africa are aroused.

SIEDAAR DIE REGTERS!

Volgens Dr. Donges se verduideliking van die regering se 'troefkaart' wetsontwerp word die parlement as die beslissende hof vir Gondwetlike vraagstukke beoog. Voordat lesers egter besluit oor wat hulle van die wetsontwerp dink behoort almal eers 'n paar eksemplare van Hansard te lees, en oordeel dan volgens wat parlamentslede te sê het (veral agterbankers aan regeringskant) of hierdie mense bevoeg sal wees om as Regters op te tree.

THE TRAGEDY OF IT!

"... Every monument of the white man perpetuates the memory of the annihilation of some black community: every celebration of victory the remembrance of our defeat: his every feast means our famine and his laughter our tears."

—Dr. Molema, African National Congress.

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GUEST WRITERS' CORNER

THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

THE will of the people — does it always prevail? In South Africa we might well ask, "Who ARE the people?" before we consider what in any particular situation their "will" might be.

The Bantu are literally "the people" and they form the overwhelming majority of the population. They have no strong desire to continue to live in semi-slavery and subjection; but it may be urged that they have not as yet WILLED their emancipation. Willing implies unity of purpose, consciousness of aim, persistence in action. The Bantu as a whole came near to it during the I.C.U. upsurge of 1920-27 when they built an organisation one hundred thousand strong. But the aim was too vaguely formulated, its details unspecified, the means of achieving it hardly considered. Persistence was not maintained.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S FIGHT.

African women did better when they fought on a specific issue in the Orange Free State in 1913-20. In 1913 the provincial council gave municipal authorities the right to impose a pass law on African women in the O.F.S. A campaign of passive resistance followed. Beginning in a small way, it grew in intensity. The women simply refused to carry passes. In Senekal, Bloemfontein, Winburg and Marquard they were sentenced in scores, in hundreds, to fines or imprisonment. They refused to pay the fines, preferring to go to gaol. The authorities could not withstand the opposition. They capitulated. The will of the women prevailed.

Looking back on our history we find numerous examples of how governments both autocratic or parliamentary have had to bow before the will of the people. The people concerned have had in each case a good cause; they have been united; they have been vocal.

In 1822-28 the struggle for the freedom of the press was started by Pringle, Greig and Fairbairn. These men had ideals and were prepared to fight for them. They had the support of the overwhelming majority of the colonists. They had history on their side, for autocratic government was becoming an anachronism in the Western World. The local dictator, Lord Charles Somerset, did not bow before the storm, but the British Government did. It removed him from office.

ANTI-CONVICT LEAGUE.

Fairbairn figured again in the anti-convict agitation of 1849. As president of the Anti-Convict League he led the campaign against the attempt of the Brit-

Our guest writer is
Dr. EDDIE ROUX,

Author of the valuable sourcebook of South African history, "Time Longer than Rope" and lecturer in Botany at the University of the Witwatersrand.

ish Government to make the Cape a penal settlement. The overcrowded state of British prisons at the time was due largely to the imprisonment of Chartists in England and Repealers in Ireland. But the prisoners despatched to South Africa in the *Neptune* were common criminals, not political ones. The colonists now had a free press to help them. They signed petitions in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Grahamstown and other centres. The citizens of Cape Town pledged themselves not to supply the *Neptune* with provisions when she arrived in Table Bay. The ship put in to Simonstown, but the church bells tolled a funeral dirge and no food was obtainable there either. The "Strike" continued for five months, at the end of which time Earl Grey, Secretary of State for the Colonies apologised for his "mistake" and ordered the ship to proceed to Tasmania. Whiteside says, "The victory thus won encouraged the Australians to stoutly resist the further transportation of criminals to their country, and in 1853 the system was finally abandoned by the British authorities."

INDIAN CAMPAIGN.

The Indian campaign in Natal (1906-1913) affords an example of how an oppressed and despised minority gained

a victory by passive resistance. Gandhi's famous march to the Transvaal has become a classic. The march coincided with a general strike of Indian workers in Natal. The Botha-Smuts government capitulated; abolished the iniquitous one-sided poll tax on Indians, and also restored the legal status of Indian married women who, by an interpretation of the Supreme Court, had been reduced to the status of concubines. The methods developed by Gandhi in South Africa were subsequently used with telling effect in India and resulted eventually in that country achieving its independence.

The various campaigns I have mentioned were conducted by voteless people. In more recent times our history provides an example of how mass pressure by an electorate has forced a government to change its plans and finally to resign and submit to the judgment of the voters.

THE RAND REVOLT.

In 1922 the white miners went on strike for economic demands. The Government soon abandoned any attempt to negotiate a settlement and Smuts stated that he would "allow things to develop." They developed into the "Rand Revolt" and civil war on the Witwatersrand. During and after the disturbances thousands of workers were arrested. Special tribunals (in which the accused were denied the privilege of trial by jury) were appointed. Long, Hull and Lewis were condemned to death and it seemed that many others were doomed to follow them to the gallows. But they sang the "Red Flag" on the scaffold and, when they were buried at Brixton Cemetery, the largest procession which Johannesburg has ever seen followed their coffins. The Strike Prisoners' Release Committee covered the country with meetings of protest. The slogan "Release the strike prisoners" was chalked up everywhere. Smuts was forced to call a halt. The murder charges still outstanding were withdrawn. Eventually a complete

(Continued on page 11.)

DIE PAD VAN DIE TOEKOMS

ELKE persoon in die land besef vandag dat daar onrus in Suid-Afrika is. Elkeen van ons voel dat daar veranderinge rondom ons plaasvind. Dit skyn of die ou „Lui-lekker-lewe“ van die verlede tot 'n einde gekom het, en ons weet nou eenmaal nie wat die dag van môre sal voortbring nie.

Die publiek, die man in die straat, kan dit alles nou nie juis goed verstaan nie. Hy kan nie sy vinger op die moeilikheid druk nie. Die gewone burger is half in die harwar. Daar is iets verkeerd maar wat is dit?

As ek en jy nou egter gaan stilsit en dink en die saak goed ontleed dan vind ons die volgende. Gedurende die laaste tien tot vyftien jaar het Suid-Afrika baie groot veranderinge ondergaan. Sedert die begin van die laaste oorlog het die land geweldig vooruitgegaan op industriële gebied. Honderde fabriekke het opgeskiet en op elke gebied is vooruitgang gemaak. Selfs in die staal- en swaar nywerhede het ons begin ons rol te speel. Groot hoeveelhede kapitaal is belê in hierdie nywerhede en tien duisende werkers is vandag werksaam in fabriekke.

Maar wat het dit nou met die geveg in die parlement te doen; wat gaan dit alles die nie-blanke vraagstuk aan?

In die verlede was die meerderheid van die nie-blankes op die platteland in die goudmyne werksaam. Die blanke werkers het al die geskoolde en semi-geskoolde werk gedoen. Hulle het al die poste in die Staatsdiens en die spoorweë bekleed. Die staatskantore en die spoorweë kon voorbly met die werkkragte tot hulle beskikking. Die posdiens het baie goed voorsien aan die behoefte. Die spoorweë kon al die vervoerwerk baas raak. Die staatskantore kon die publiek bedien. Persone het nie twee en drie inkomste-belastingaanslae in een maand ontvang nie. Daar was nie 'n tekort aan werknemers nie. Daar was 'n persoon vir elke pos.

Toe die uitbreiding van die nywerhede egter begin het alles groot verandering begin ondergaan. Tienduisende nie-blankes het in die nywerhede werksaam geword. Duisende blankes het die meer geskoolde werk in die nywerhede oorgeeneem. Die platteland het begin kort raak van arbeid en die boere het begin baan opskop. Die goudmyne het begin blankes

sowel as nie-blanke arbeid verloor. Die mense het beter poste in industrieë gevind.

Staatsdiens en die Spoorweë het duisende werknemers verloor en so het die land al meer en meer voor nuwe probleme te staan gekom. Dit het duidelik geword dat die betreklike klein groepie blankes nie, meer al die dienste kon lewer nie. Die begrip dat slegs 'n blanke persoon geskoolde of semi-geskoolde werk mag doen begin ons nou in die steek te laat. Daar is nie genoeg blankes om die werk te doen nie. Daar is nie genoeg nie-blankes om die werk op die plase, in die myne en in die fabriekke te doen nie.

Naturelle-arbeid was in die verlede volop in Suid-Afrika. En omdat dit volop was het ons dikwels op onekonomiese wyse te werk gegaan. Ons kan slegs ons moeilikhede oplos as ons op 'n baie meer ekonomiese wyse sal te werk gaan. Pik en graaf werk moet al meer en meer padgee vir die masjien. Die nie-blanke sal moet toegelaat word om geskoolde werk te doen of anders sal ons nywerhede nie kan voortbestaan nie. Die grootskaalse ontwikkeling van die mynwyse sal nie kan plaasvind as die nie-blanke nie toegelaat word om 'n meer voorname rol te speel nie.

En nou kom ons by die politieke stryd. Die Nasionale Regering is besig om te probeer om die voorwaartse mars van die geskiedenis in Suid-Afrika te stem. Hierdie regering praat van die beskerming van die blanke beskawing. Hulle sê die naturelle moet terug na die Platteland gaan. Hulle sê die ontwikkeling van die nie-blanke as 'n geskoolde werker in die nywerhede is 'n gevaar vir die blanke. Vir my lyk dit asof die boere kort is van arbeid en gevolglik sê hulle verteenwoordigers in die Parlement dat die Naturelle uit die stede gehou moet word. Die propaganda-masjien van die Nasionale Regering is besig om vir die blanke werkers te sê dat hy sy werk sal verloor as die Naturel toegelaat word om geskoolde werk te doen. En kort op die hakke van hierdie propaganda volg die stories van die gevaar vir die blanke beskawing, die beskerming van die Afrikaanse taal, ens.

Hoe kan 'n beskawing voortbestaan en groei en floreer as daar nie uitbreiding op industriële gebied is nie. Hoe kan die beskawing voortbestaan as miljoene van die bevolking nie toegelaat word om te ontwikkel nie. Terug na die feudale stelsel wil ons tog seker nie.

En daarom moet die Malan-regering padgee. Hulle staan in die pad van Suid-Afrika; hulle gaan in die verkeerde koers.

Maar jy en ek moet besef dat dit nie maklik sal wees om hierdie kêrels uit die saal te kry nie. Dit sal hard baklei vereis.

(Geskryf deur Theo Pienaar, Mainhuis 37, Mainstraat, Johannesburg.)

FRENCH EX-SOLDIERS AGAINST GERMAN ARMY.

THE Executive Committee of the French Union of Veterans' Associations (UFAC) met in Paris on February 28 and adopted a motion opposing German rearmament. The meeting followed the vote of the French National Assembly approving the creation of the European Defence Community.

The UFAC motion states: Considering the fact that the basis upon which the European Defence Community is drawn up is tantamount to:

- (1) a re-arming of Germany and
- (2) a liquidation of the French army at a time when most of the powers that signed the Atlantic Pact are preserving their national armies,

the Board of UFAC wishes to point out:

- (1) that the French Union of Veterans' Associations remains resolutely hostile to the rearmament of Germany in any form whatsoever,
- (2) that it cannot subscribe to the liquidation of the army which when duly rebuilt should remain the guarantee of the independence and freedom of France.

The UFAC solemnly asserts its attachment to peace, justice and freedom and warns the directors of French policy against the danger of engagements which facilitate Germany's rapid return to its inveterate policy of domination."

Social Welfare in Profile**A MAN'S A MAN . . .**

by "YETTA," Legion's Social Welfare Officer

THE first time Randall called at our offices he wanted help with his application for a Veteran's Pension and, as I assisted him with the filling in of the form, I was touched by his gratitude and humility for so small a service. His sister-in-law was with him and she, too, was thankful for his sake. It was not long before the impersonal note disappeared and a warmth and exchange of confidences sprang up between the three of us.

Randall was a man over sixty who had served in the first World War, having joined up in England. He came to South Africa after the war and was earning comparatively good money on the mines, where he was employed as a carpenter. He was involved in a fight and stabbed badly in his arm, leaving him disabled and a third-rate man at his trade. Then followed unemployment, odd jobs badly paid, economic instability, accompanied by a loss of self-respect in the man himself.

As I talked to him, I began to understand why he had lost his grip on life, why he was so apologetic about his dress, and why there was the tight look about his face.

We agreed that while he was awaiting the outcome of his application we would try to find him a job. He needed a shirt, jacket, and some shoes to help him approach his job-hunting with some confidence. The collar of the shirt we found for him needed turning. This was beautifully done by his sister-in-law. The shoes we gave him needed new soles, although the uppers were quite new. Poor Randall was so excited about the fact that they looked like new, that he gladly mended the soles himself without any difficulty — appearances were so terribly important to him — and he was a small shrunken man whose sixty years had told heavily on him.

Once when we thought we had a job that might suit him we sent the Legion car to fetch him immediately. He could not come at once because he was waiting for his "good shirt" to dry. But he did not get that job.

Eventually he was awarded the Veteran's Pension of £10 per month and just at that time, we got him fixed up with work at Sheltered Employment at a wage

of approximately £3 7s. 6d. per week. He knew that if he accepted the job he would have to forego the pension. This he did without a moment's hesitation. He realised fully that his wages at Sheltered Employment minus his tram fare to and from work would amount to little more than his Veteran's Pension money, yet he preferred to earn his keep.

Then followed a very happy period for Randall. He was glad to be able to pay the good people who had previously housed him for nothing — 30/- per week for his room and one meal a day. To add to his good fortune the Legion was approached by a Sports Club to find a man for week-ends only to supervise the change rooms, for which he would be paid £1 10s. 0d. per week-end. Who else but Randall for the job?

In my excitement to tell him about it, I took a tram down to Braamfontein, got out at the wrong stop, walked about a mile, and, after knocking at half a dozen doors, was just about to give up, cursing my own stupidity at not getting the address right, when a good-natured woman smiled down at the three quarrelling children who were confusing me and said, "Of course, Randall stays here."

He was in his room and his sister-in-law was warming his dinner. There was an air of hope in the room. I could sense it in the newly-made cupboard made from boxes, in the fresh white paint that coated other articles of his handiwork, and in their faces. When I told him of the new prospect I was moved by their suppressed joy.

Randall got the Sports Club job. He planned to marry his sister-in-law, his dead brother's widow. He was earning the princely sum of approximately £5 per week and his desire for stability was so keen it was almost pathetic.

During this period he was always completely reliable; every appointment, every undertaking was meticulously carried out and then Randall fell ill. It was an old complaint "Siroris of the Liver." His past had caught up with him. He did not want to go to hospital but it was imperative that he did so. His job at Sheltered Employment would remain open to him, but he was worried about losing the Sports' Club job. The Club agreed to my

suggestion to employ temporary labour as long as they could. With this assurance Randall went to hospital.

We kept in touch with the hospital and let Randall know we were keeping an eye on his week-end job, and then after about a month he was temporarily discharged from hospital. He came to see us at the office. He was not strong enough to start at the Club that week-end but he would phone the next week and let us know. I had become so used to accepting Randall's word as his bond that when he did not phone I knew something had gone wrong and expected his sister-in-law to phone. But she did not.

Some weeks later I was buying bread when I saw a man in the shop hungrily eating buns. Something about him made me look again. Yes, it was Randall and when I spoke to him he broke down. "I have been in terrible trouble — I have been drinking again and been in gaol."

I tried to put him at ease by talking to him naturally. I tried to make him see that this was not the end of the world. We could possibly help him again and I asked him to call at the office next day. His sense of shame and failure was too strong, however, and as I walked away from him I knew that he would not come to see us again.

As I journeyed home on my bus after leaving Randall, I reflected sadly on the limitations of welfare work and my own inability to reach across Randall's reserve and frustration.

If only I had been able to help him see his misfortunes, commencing from his arm injury, against a general background of insecurity, unemployment, low wages, illness without provision, his sense of values would have been different. But he could only see what happened to him in relation to his own plans and strivings for respectability. He had been well schooled in the belief that life had plenty to offer to those who wished to get it — you were good and industrious and you reached the top — and if you did not then there was something wrong with you.

I remembered his words: "I have been drinking again and in gaol." Would it have helped if I had asked, "Randall, were you a drunkard before you were unemployed?" I don't think so — his urgent searchings for success obscured his understanding of even his own failure.

I stepped off the bus thinking of Robert Burns's poem and his words, "A man's a man for 'a that and 'a that."

Legionnaires Call for Drastic Action

NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

THE Legion's Ninth Annual National Conference was held in Johannesburg on Saturday and Sunday, 26 and 27 April. Delegates expressed the opinion afterwards that it was the "healthiest" Conference we've had since the Nats. came into power. There were obvious reasons for that opinion. For one thing the waverers and the ditherers have fallen away, leaving behind men and women, who recognise the seriousness of the immediate jobs to be tackled and are not afraid. For another thing the pall of government-intimidation which overhung the last two or three conferences has worn thin. People today are not so terrified of the vague threats of government reprisals. They fear much more the repercussions of the Government's complete denial of democracy. All told, therefore, the Conference was lively, uninhibited and purposeful.

The tone of Conference was set by the Chairman, Dr. Guy Roath, in his opening remarks, when he said:

"But today, at this moment in April 1952, I am convinced that the political pendulum is already on the swing again — again to the 'left'. I sense, I believe that the desperately difficult conditions for Legion struggle during the past four years are changing. I believe the moment has arrived for us with more seriousness, more purpose than ever before to take stock: to size up the situation; to recognise the demands that are being made and will be made on us as an organisation. We have to become conscious of the pull of the tide and make doubly sure that we do not miss it.

"I believe that we Legionnaires have an opportunity today to fulfil our own deep desire for Peace and Democracy, our deep desire to practise the 'brotherhood of man'. The times are once again ripe for a move forward, in the course of which we can bring enlightenment and hope to our fellowmen and fulfilment and easy consciences to our selves."

NEW PROCEDURE.

A new procedure was adopted at this Conference, which resulted in a clarity of purpose and a minimum of discor-

don. The Chairman's Report — previously endorsed by the National Executive Committee — consisted of: an outline history of the Legion; an analysis of the vital trends in international affairs; an analysis of South African affairs, including a report on the major parties and groups which are involved in the political struggle; and, finally, an analysis of the position of the Legion in relation to the parties and political groups and the Legion's tasks.

This report was so clearcut, so illuminating that it was adopted without any serious amendment. Consequently, when delegates turned to the consideration of the resolutions, the background had been already made clear and decisions were arrived at without foggy misunderstandings.

PRIORITIES.

Without doubt the dominating factor at Conference was the desperate actions of the Neo-Nationalist Government. Delegates rightly saw that South Africa is confronted today with the inescapable obligation of FIGHTING TO RETAIN IN OUR HANDS THE VERY WEAPONS OF STRUGGLE WITHOUT WHICH THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY CANNOT GO ON.

This is no time to campaign for this, that and the other thing, which we would like to see introduced into South Africa: no time for pretty-pretty essentials; no time for building castles in the distant air. Conference realised that there will be no time for any mortal thing for years to come UNLESS WE KEEP TIGHT HOLD OF THE WEAPONS OF STRUGGLE — and that we can do only BY FORCING THE RESIGNATION OF THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY.

This point was argued out to finality, when a contrary opinion was expressed. One delegate was apprehensive lest the Legion, in concentrating on the present fight against the Nats., should forget and neglect the deeper objective of fighting for a genuine democracy in South Africa: that is, a democracy in which political rights and civil rights are enjoyed by all South Africans, regardless of colour or race. He thought there was no little essential difference between the

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

I THANK you all for doing me the honour, through your delegates, of electing me the Legion's National Chairman. It is an honour, I must confess, that I accept with some alacrity. Let me tell you why.

In the first place it is a unique honour, because the Springbok Legion is a unique organisation. No other organisation in South Africa has the proud and exciting record that the Legion has for militant action in a progressive cause. Merely to be a member of the Legion gives grounds for quiet pride. To be elected chairman is to be very greatly honoured indeed.

In the second place I

accept the invitation because I shall be at the head of the Legion in the next few months, when great things will be demanded of the organisation and when great things will be offered by our entire membership. It is a fact in history — as the resistance movements in occupied Europe during the war confirmed — that as the struggle becomes sharper, the people need and find a bolder, more hard-hitting leadership.

An organisation such as the Legion is mistrusted and rejected by the respectable timid leaders of struggle, who are too ready to waver and appease the implacable enemy. But when the battle becomes fiercer, those same leaders betray the trust placed in them and fall by the wayside. Then the rejected fighters are called back to lead the final, desperate round. That is happening to us.

This is a fact which I would like every reader of these words to ponder, because there is no role for me without you . . . you members in Graaff Reinet, in Rondebosch, in Pretoria, in East London and everywhere else. YOU are the Legion and the Legion will fulfil its tasks in the next few months, if YOU are ready, willing and courageous enough to stand forward and give the lead in your own community.

No time for timidity now, no time for self-protection, no time for betrayal of the beliefs you hold dear, no time for yellow surrender to the tyranny of the Nats. Here is time for men and women whose blood still runs red, whose hearts still beat boldly, whose minds do not filter at the inescapable truth.

Here is the time for US.

CECIL WILLIAMS.



Nationalist Party and the United Party that we would bring true democracy no nearer to South Africa by re-instating the United Party.

Other delegates agreed willingly that the United Party has not a proud record of strengthening democracy in South Africa: nor can it be said that the United Party has to-date given us an assurance that it will abolish all the anti-democratic legislation put through by the Nats., for instance, the United Party has not promised to wipe out the disgraceful 'Suppression of Communism' Act. Nevertheless, delegates agreed that with a United Party Government we were free to continue the fight for the extension of democratic practice in South Africa.

THE DIFFERENCE.

Under the Nationalist Government, however, day by day the threat to the very weapons of struggle — the freedom of speech, organisation, freedom of the press, the rule of law — becomes more frightening. We have been pushed into the desperate corner, where we must force the government out of power, before democratic struggle itself becomes impossible, before freedom of speech completely disappears, before the leaders of the struggle — the leaders of the Legion, the Torch Commando, the trade unions, the Indian and African National Congress — are removed from the fight and thrown into concentration camps.

Accepting this deliberate limitation to the scope of the present phase of the fight for democracy, Conference proceeded to advocate a national stoppage of work, as the sole peaceful mass left by which the Government can be forced out of power. Conference agreed to give this task a high priority.

THE OTHER FRONTS.

Flowing from the chairman's report, it was inevitable that Conference should realise the unity of the Non-European's present campaign and the anti-Nat. fight of the European voters. Unlike the United Party and the Torch Commando — which are afraid of Non-European participation in the fight against the Nats

— the Legion recognised at Conference: (a) that the Non-European struggle even on its own will deal a most powerful blow against the Nat. government with its filthy apartheid policy; and, (b) that to defeat the Nats. at this moment, when they have exposed their true Nazi character, unity of purpose and action between Non-European and European is utterly essential.

Conference, therefore, welcomed the launching of the Campaign To Defy Unjust Laws and committed the Legion to support the Campaign.

Complementing these two major decisions, was the resolution calling on the Legion to increase its effort to preserve world peace. Delegates accepted the proposition that the attacks on political and civil rights in individual countries tie up with the warmongers' intention to plunge the world into a third world war, in order to prevent the articulate organisation of the people's hatred of and resistance to war, the capitalists, particularly in America, are using every device to deprive citizens of the freedoms of speech and organisation. [In South Africa, it was pointed out, the Nationalists in their destruction of civil liberties are serving two purposes: the prevention of a powerful move to oppose war and also their own narrow intention to remain in power at any cost.]

AND THE REST.

In addition there were resolutions reaffirming the Legion's desire to assist co-volunteers, particularly Legion members, to a solution of their welfare problems; recommending the re-introduction of the 'Active Contacts' lists, names of members to whom special letters and memoranda will be sent, keeping them thoroughly up-to-date with Legion opinions and plans; condemning the "High Court of Parliament" Bill as an unmistakable piece of Nazi legislation; opposing Nationalist "Industrial Legislation" and calling for a comprehensive Housing Scheme, to be adopted by both central and local governing bodies.

THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.

Conference elected Mr. Cecil Williams to the position of National Chairman. In congratulating Mr. Williams on his elec-

(Continued on page 15.)

THE WORLD TODAYby BEN GILES**THE BUSINESSMEN GO EAST**

EVEN in these days when steak and eggs seems to cost a prince's ransom, £200 million sounds like a lot of money.

But when it represents goods exchanged between countries of the capitalist and socialist worlds, it is more than a substantial pile of good hard cash. It becomes a large contribution to inter-nation friendship, an antidote to the hysteria of cold and preventive wars, and a threat to the continued tales of the "impossibility" of co-existence of capitalist and socialist societies in a single world.

This is the measure of the consequences and significance of the recent Moscow Economic Conference, reports of which have trickled through our iron censorship screen. The £200 million deal was only one of the trade arrangements negotiated by unofficial representatives of capitalist private enterprise in the first post-war meeting with official representatives of socialist state enterprise. Signed by delegates from the Central People's Government of China and of Great Britain, it is a beginning from which great ends may flow.

Perhaps £200 million is not sufficient to startle a statistician used to globular figures for global trade. But in the year 1952, world trade is not to be measured in the astronomical figures of yesteryear. The levels of trade are falling, and the flow and exchange of goods between the nations is drying up behind a self-imposed wall of import quotas, austerity cuts and currency shortages. Each new desperate attempt of the western world to force export levels up through increased productivity, reduced costs and slicker advertising has foundered on the rocks. Only the flood of armaments grows greater as social services and real wages grow less.

Yet, crazily, in the midst of a desperate search for export markets which is the common need of all the western countries, the great and open markets of China, Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia are sealed from the west by an iron curtain.

MADE IN AMERICA.

That curtain was fabricated in America. Its name is the "Battle Act", — a name not without aptness. For the Battle Act promises to cut off at the source all dollars flowing to the Marshall Aid countries, if those countries trade with the Socialist world in "warlike or strategic" materials. Marshall Aid, which opened so heroically amidst the ad-men's

cries of 'open-handedness' and 'no-strings' ends, appropriately, in the Battle Act — or as they call it in the harsh lands where the soft Yankee drawl has not penetrated, "economic blackmail."

"Strategic and warlike" material is an elastic and all embracing term in the days of preparation for total war. Already the "verboden" list reads like a manufacturer's directory; and the list is still growing. Of the Anglo-Chinese £200 million deal, Britain's Board of Trade has already banned 100 British Locomotives for Chinese Railways.

Locos, clearly, are both warlike and strategic. The battle axe has not yet fallen on the balance of the order. No doubt it will, because the arbiters of the cold war claim for themselves the sole right to trade with the beggarly and subservient recipients of Marshall "Aid". The Chinese order is for textiles—which means uniforms to those who dream of war; medicines, which sounds sinisterly like the stuff that clutters up casualty clearing stations; and chemicals, which every schoolboy knows are good not only for making stink bombs but also for explosives.

NIGHTMARE HYSTERIA.

In this world of nightmare hysteria of thought and policy the governments of Western Europe trail tamely along behind their American educators. Mr. Dean Acheson solemnly warns that the Moscow Economic Conference threatens to undermine the West, by gaining for the wily reds war materials disguised to look like jam and bow-ties. Accordingly, he dictates, the Conference is to be boycotted. The pearls of Yankee wisdom do not fall on deaf ears. British, French, Dutch and Belgium governments pause for a moment from their hoarse exhortations to the workers to produce more and eat less, join in the idiotic act of hari-kiri, and proclaim a boycott on the East-West trade talks. They sing in solemn chorus:

"The other day upon the stair,
I met a man who wasn't there.
He wasn't there again today.
Oh how I wish he'd go away!"

Fortunately the Governments of Western Europe, if they think at all, have no monopoly on thinking. Some businessmen of the West—excluding the United States — managed to think for themselves above the clamour of the boycott chorus. They thought no doubt of the slow death creeping over the Lancashire cotton mills, of the queues growing longer at the labour exchanges and outside the grocer's door where two ounces of bacon is the prize, and of the paradox that as production rises higher and higher, austerity and deficit mount in the face of spiralling dollar import cuts.

MOSCOW TALKS.

Some businessmen, some economists and some politicians thought for themselves and went to Moscow to talk. They found it easier than they had dared hope, and they remained to trade.

But that was Moscow.

The trouble started back home, in the lands of the Marshall dollar and the Battle Act. The bid for exports to the East becomes willy-nilly a bid for ending American domination and its cold war policies of austerity and want.

Those who went to Moscow opened a chink in the American iron curtain around Eastern Europe and Asia. That chink will be widened by a flow of goods in two directions, raising the standards of life on both sides. The Conference offered the west the chance to sell ploughshares rather than wield swords, to eat butter rather than fire guns. Whatever Mr. Acheson may think, whatever the West European Governments may think, the people of all countries will seize at that opportunity with both hands.

CHANCELLOR Adenauer has publicly admitted that 130 members of his foreign ministry staff were employed in the same capacity as under Hitler.

BRANCH



ITEMS

A SPECIAL general meeting of Johannesburg members was called on April 7th to discuss the Legion's attitude to the Constitutional Crisis and to the non-European Resistance Campaign. Jack Hodgson introduced the discussion and unanimity was reached on the Legion's role in relation to the non-European Liberatory struggle and the anti-Nat. fight. A number of practical suggestions were made for implementation by the Branch Committee, and a resolution was taken.

For several months the Legion has been battling to get across its point of view to the United Party and the Torch Commando. We believe that the non-European struggle against oppressive legislation is part of the whole struggle against the Nationalists and we long ago faced the fact that the most effective means of demonstrating the Nats' inability to rule was a "standstill" of industry.

The "truce" between the parliamentary parties and the Torch Commando brought home to the Branch Committee that it was high time the Legion took its views to the public, and accordingly a meeting was arranged for lunch-time on Wednesday, 9th April, at the City Hall Steps.

The meeting was well attended and the speeches, which were excellently put across, very well received. Cecil Williams, who dealt with the non-European Resistance Campaign, most persuasively pointed out that the campaign was directed against unjust laws and not against Europeans generally. The other speakers were Mr. Slovo, Mr. Beyleveld and Dr. Routh, who ably dealt with the Constitutional Crisis.

The following resolution was passed unanimously.

This meeting of Johannesburg citizens

- (a) condemns outright any Nationalist attempt to sidestep the Appeal Court's decision on the "Separate Representation of Voters' Act."

- (b) expresses our disapproval of the United Party's acceptance of a political truce in these critical times.
- (c) expresses its sympathy with the Non-European peoples in their struggle against the Nationalists' oppressive legislation.
- (d) urges the democratic parties and organisations to bring about the downfall of the Nationalist Government by means of a standstill in commerce and industry.

A further successful public meeting, dealing with the same subjects, was held in Doornfontein on Sunday, 20th April. The speakers were Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Berman and Mr. Beyleveld, and once again a good crowd enthusiastically endorsed our point of view.

* * * *

Branch members have recently been inundated with leaflet distributions, both for our own and other organisations' meetings, but the response has generally been very good indeed. Members handed out over ten thousand leaflets for the meeting on the City Hall Steps.

* * * *

The Branch Committee has decided to produce a pamphlet on the Constitutional Crisis and members are busy raising the necessary money to pay for it. The Committee got off to a good start towards realising its target by holding a successful jumble sale on Saturday, 5th April. In addition, Branch members are canvassing their friends for donations. Will YOU send in a donation?

* * * *

Special meetings have been taking place on the Reef between N.E.C. members and leading members of Branch Committees. After one such meeting in Germiston, attended by Mannie Baker, Bill Bush, Stan Campbell and "Spider" Webb, the N.E.C. member present confessed to being tremendously stimulated and heartened by their solidity and understanding.

The Will of the People

(Continued from page 5.)

amnesty was granted. Faced with defeats at by-elections, Smuts finally dissolved parliament.

The General Election (of 1924) which followed was interesting in more ways than one. Unity of Afrikaans- and English-speaking workers during the strike (they sang the "Red Flag" to the tune of the Volkslied) had its subsequent parallel on the political field in the Nationalist-Labour Pact. What is more the Nationalists sought the help of the Non-Europeans. (This fact should be given publicity today. The Nationalists are accusing the Torch Commando — wrongly it would appear — of "stirring up the Non-Europeans".)

The Nationalist-supported Afrikaner Bond sought to win the vote of the Cape Coloured people. Already in 1921 Hertzog had written to Kadalie sending a donation to the I.C.U. funds and expressing sympathy, and Malan sent his famous telegram to an African National Congress meeting in Queenstown, urging the Natives as "true patriots" to take their place "side by side with the Nationalists in the common political arena."

The alliance with the I.C.U. was maintained in 1923-24. At the Conference of the African National Congress at Bloemfontein the I.C.U. delegates moved a resolution supporting the Pact and they got moral and material support from Hertzog. Prior to the general election the I.C.U. had a special "election number" of their organ "The Workers' Herald". This was financed entirely by the Nationalists and was distributed free of charge. When subsequently the Pact government introduced various laws hostile to the Africans and took steps against the I.C.U., Kadalie protested publicly: "Without our votes in the Cape you would never have got into power!"

Looking back on these events of the past we see that time and again in South Africa's history the will of the people has prevailed. Robert Charles Swart has a prototype in Lord Charles Somerset. Since Somerset's time the idea of democracy and the rule of law has broadened and deepened. It is unlikely in 1952 that a group of parliamentary dictators will be able to "get way with it."

BOOK REVIEW**“THE PROUD AND THE FREE”***by Howard Fast*

HOWARD FAST is a novelist who writes only about the struggle for freedom.

Since history is full of examples of ordinary men and women who rose up against their oppressors, he has no shortage of material on which to base his novels. He is fascinated not only by the struggles themselves, but more particularly by the conflicts within the ranks of the fighters — their hesitations, their inability to resolve the struggle — not so much because of their own shortcomings, but because of the inescapable law of historical dialectics, which never allows an event to lose its perspective and its correct place and order in the scheme of things.

This particular book, “The Proud and the Free”, deals with a number of regiments known as the “Pennsylvania line” which during the War of Independence mutinied against their officers and won their fight in terms of the immediate issues involved. The men were mostly “foreigners” — Irish, Negroes and Jews, and for that reason they suffered more at the hands of their brutal superiors than did the run-of-the-mill Yankees. Their service contracts were ignored, they received no pay and their food and living conditions were indescribably horrible.

The mutiny was unplanned and unrehearsed and took the officers, or the “gentry” as they were called, completely by surprise. But this minor rebellion never got out of hand. The “Committee or Sergeants”, which was elected to control the uprising, shed no blood and maintained an even stricter discipline among the rank and file than before. But what is more important is that they did not for a moment cease their fighting against the British enemy. Indeed, when the British General heard of the mutiny and sent agents to them, offering them rewards and protection if they would change sides, they handed these agents over to the former officers as a sign of their loyalty to the American flag.

There they were. The uprising had been successful and there was no force in the vicinity capable of putting it down, and on this stage of its brief career the author places the emphasis of his book. What were they to do?

Could they march into Philadelphia and take over the Congress?

Militarily, yes. But this might precipitate a civil war and give the British the opportunity of defeating the country’s forces. On the other hand, they could not stay indefinitely as an independent army within an army. There was only one thing they could do, and this Howard Fast describes with all the quality of his masterful pen.

The book is written in the same style as “My Glorious Brothers” and perhaps it might have been an idea for Mr. Fast to have changed his style slightly, so soon after his last book. But that is a minor objection. The magnificence of the struggle, the depth of his insight into the minds of the ordinary men, is there in every page and in every word.

Such a book sets a new standard which modern novelists would do well to strive for. Its significance is even more marked when one remembers that Howard Fast was unable to find an American publisher to produce the book and had to have it published himself. The book under review is the English publication from the Bodley Head. Perhaps tales of freedom, told in this forthright and courageous manner, are unpopular in the United States at the moment, but at any rate this book will be appreciated and treasured by people like me and you for years to come. J.P.

The Credo of The World War Veterans’ Federation

THE War Veterans’ Federation invited Dr. Ralph Bunche, Nobel Peace Award winner and director of the Trusteeship Division of the U.N., to compose a “credo” for the Federation. Dr. Bunche wrote the following, which has been adopted by the Federation as its Credo:

“None can speak more eloquently for peace than those who have fought in war. The voices of war veterans are a reflection of the longing for peace of people the world over, who within a generation have twice suffered the unspeakable catastrophe of world war. Humanity has earned the right to peace. Without it, there can be no hope for the future. And without hope, man is lost.

“The voice of the people must be heeded. They aspire to a richer life in freedom, equality and dignity, as in things material; they pray for peace. Their will for peace and a better life can be, must be, crystallised into an irresistible force against war, aggression and degradation.

“The people have had to work and sacrifice for wars. They will work more willingly for peace. Let there be a dedicated effort, a greater crusade than history has ever known, for a world of peace, freedom and equality.”

YOU'RE TELLING US

Letters to the Editor



The Editor,
"Fighting Talk."
Sir,

Don't think me a carping critic, because I am not. I want to say, all the same, that in my opinion "Fighting Talk" doesn't quite come off, the reason being that you and your contributors take yourselves too seriously. Admittedly the purpose of the magazine is to pass on information and opinions, which will keep us ordinary members up to the political mark, but you ought to remember that some of us, perhaps the majority of us, already have views, which are not very different from the official attitudes of the Legion. Nevertheless, I always read my "Fighting Talk", but wish that I could come across something off the beaten track, an occasional article which has nothing to do with politics or else a political article written unusually, like a satirical verse for instance.

Could you do something about it and give us a break?

Yours, etc.,

Rondebosch. **HAPPY JACK.**

(We will try to meet your point. What about something from you?)

Sir,

I have been following the articles and the correspondence in "Fighting Talk" on the subject of War and Peace. I think you are doing the right thing in trying to present "the other side's" point of view, but I think you're banging your head against a stone wall — the stone wall of the preconceived ideas most people get from their newspapers. It strikes me as strange that we so-called politically-advanced citizens in this year of grace 1952 can so easily be persuaded that there is only 'our' point of view; that we have the monopoly of truth.

Why don't you publish a list of papers and periodicals which are capable of supplementing the overseas news we get in our daily papers and our South African periodicals?

Yours, etc.,

Bellevue. **A. R. ROBERTS.**

OUR REPLY.

Dear Friend,

We agree that most of us do not enjoy an independence of opinion, because we are subjected to the propaganda of one

side only. On this question, however, one notices from time to time a paper like the "Rand Daily Mail" apportioning down-right criticism of America's irresponsible spokesmen who talk "War."

We have collected the following list of journals and newspapers, which we believe can be read with advantage. Some of them have a splendid reputation of "independence"; others quite frankly and honestly put forward for our consideration the 'other' point of view. It is up to us, the readers, to evolve our own attitudes, after gathering as much information as possible.

United Nations Bulletin — a fortnightly review: 22/6 per annum: order through Van Schaik's Bookstore, P.O. Box 724, Pretoria.

The Monthly Review — an American monthly socialist magazine. About 30/- per annum. Order through: Collet's, 40 Great Russell St., London, W.C.1.

The New Statesman and Nation: British Weekly, independent in its attitude to both U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Order through any newsagent.

The Tribune: British socialist fortnightly paper, putting forward views of Aneurin Bevan. Order from: The Tribune, 222 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Labour Monthly: British monthly, pro-Communist; about 20/- per annum. Order from: Labour Monthly, 134 Ballards Lane, London, N.3.

The Nation: American independent, equally critical of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., about 35/- per annum. Order from "The New Statesman and Nation."

National Guardian: American progressive newsweekly, about 24/- per annum. Order from Collet's, 40 Great Russell St., London, W.C.1.

"Today": a roneo'd newsletter by Anna Louise Strong (Unitarian Church). Order (free or donation welcomed) from: Box 161, Montrose, California, U.S.A.

Yours, etc.,

EDITOR.

P.S.—We shall be glad to publish titles of other reading matter which members might care to recommend.

We suggest you get your local Library to order some of the above, if they are not already available.

SY WOORD VAN EER.

Drie jaar gelede het Mnr. Havenga op Brakpan gesê dat hy nooit say saamstem om veranderinge aan te bring in die verteenwoordiging van Kleurlinge in die Parlemente, tensy sulke wetgewing die uitdruklike wil van die volk is nie. Hy het ook duidelik laat verstaan dat hy die meerderheid waarvoor die huidige regering in die parlement beskik nie as voldoende beskou.

Twee jaar gelede op Hobhouse het hy gesê "Alhoewel die regering nie bereik is om die politieke regte van die nie-blankes uit te brei nie, behoort dié wat reeds aan hulle gegee is ook nie weg geneem te word nie." Tydens die bespreking van die Wetsontwerp op Aparte verteenwoordiging in die Volksraad het hy weer gesê dat hy teen die wetsontwerp sal stem indien die Speaker sou beslis dat dit politieke regte aan die kleurlinge ontnem. Tenspyte van die Appélhof se beslissing dat dit wel politieke regte aan die kleurling ontnem, en tenspyte van die beslissing dat niks minder as 'n twee-derde meerderheid nodig is om hierdie regte te ontnem nie, bly mnr. Havenga egter steeds 'n leidende figuur in die regering waarvan alleen afgelei kan word dat hy die optrede van sy kollegas ten volle ondersteun.

Die tyd het dus aangebreek dat die volk van Suid-Afrika van mnr. Havenga 'n verklaring eis van hoe hy dit reg kry om twee sulke uiteenlopende standpunte te verseenselwig.



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(Continued from page 9.)



Messrs. Slovo, Campbell and Cousins, delegates to the Ninth Annual National Conference.

NINTH CONFERENCE

tion, Dr. Routh said that, when he called to mind Mr. Williams's zest and energy, he had no doubt that the new chairman would prove to be a worthy successor to the Legion's previous chairmen.

Mr. Jack Hodgson was unanimously re-elected as National Secretary, a position he has filled with distinction and devotion for nine years.

DELEGATES' PARTY.

On Saturday evening, after the first session of Conference, delegates were entertained at a buffet supper party by the women members of the Johannesburg Branch Committee and the wives of the male members. That provided an occasion for delegates to meet each other and revive memories of other conferences in an informal atmosphere. It was noticeable that Legion conferences seem to have a set stock of 'jokes', all of which were duly repeated at this year's party!

Because the National Executive Committee had decided beforehand to debar resolutions, which could never be implemented, the agenda was completed without the usual rush at the end.

The new National Executive Committee consists of the following members: Messrs. M. Berman, L. Bernstein, Adv. V. Berrange, P. Beyleveld, D. Chamberlain, W. East, Dr. M. Hathorn, J. Hodgson, L. Lovell, M.P., J. Podbrey, Adv. J. Slovo, C. Williams.

Copies of the Chairman's Report — a first-rate, illuminating document — will be posted to members on receipt of a postal order or stamps to the value of 2/.

FOOTNOTE TO CAMPAIGN.

An advertisement in the "Daily Film Renter" (21/1/52) pays unconscious tribute to the effectiveness of the campaign against the notorious film, "Rommel—Desert Fox."

It says, "Soon we shall make available James Mason's new picture, "5 Fingers" Some theatres, because of political pressure in the neighbourhood, did not outgross "All About Eve" with "Rommel" . . . "5 Fingers" has no political controversy, but it is a talking-point picture of universal excitement and it will outdo "Rommel" in every situation."

SNIPPETS FROM THE FOURTH REICH

★ DR. LEHR, Minister of the Interior, has recently decreed that the Hitler war medals, decorated with the swastika, may again be worn.

• • • • •

FORTY-FOUR German war criminals have been released from the U.S.A. Army Prison at Landsberg this year. Among the 11 so far set free from the British prison in Werl during 1952 is ex-General Gallenkamp, condemned to death in 1947 for the execution of British and American P.O.W.'s. His sentence was later reduced to life-imprisonment, then to ten years, and now he is free.

• • • • •

TOKEN strikes against remilitarisation of Germany and conscription have taken place in many factories and mines in Western Germany. At a meeting in Frankfurt, Protestant Pastor Mochalski called upon German students to resist the developments leading to a new war. More than 1,000 women took part in a Women's Congress for Peace recently held in Munich.

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Unless otherwise stated, J. Podbrey 37 Main House, Main Street, Johannesburg, is responsible for all political matter in this issue.